



FEB. 1973 No.45



OUR COVER: Dax The Warrior's "The Witch" — a superh thriller wherein our mighty warrior is transformed into a mindless beast. Cover by Luis Dominguez just highlights this terrorfilled tale. Story begins on Page 86.

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TOM SUTTON

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DOUG MOENCH
FRED OTT
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EERIE NO. 45, PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY WITH AN ADDITIONAL SPECIAL ISSUE IN OCTOBER, BY WARREN PUBLISHING CO. PRICE 75¢ PER COPY. SUBSCRIPTION: 7 ISSUES (INCLUDING OCTOBER SPECIAL ISSUE) FOR \$7.00 IN THE U.S. ELSEWHERE: 88.50. EDITORIAL & BUSINESS OFFICES AT 145 EAST 32nd STREET, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS MAIL PRIVILEGE PENDING AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. CONTENTS COPYRIGHTED © 1972 BY WARREN PUBLISHING CO. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD UNDER THE UNIVERSAL COPYRIGHT CONVENTION, THE INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT CONVENTION, AND THE PAN AMERICAN COPYRIGHT CONVENTION, AND THE PAN AMERICAN COPYRIGHT CONVENTION, HOTHING MAY BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE PUBLISHER. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE INVITED PROVIDED THAT RETURN POSTAGE & ENVELOPE ARE ENCLOSED. OTHERWISE MATERIAL CANNOT BE RETURNED. SORRY, NO RESPONSIBILITY CAN BE ACCEPTED FOR UNSOLICITED MATERIAL. PRINTED IN U.S.A.

EERIE

- DEAR COUSIN EERIE More letters from you fear-crazed horror freaks concerning the latest Exploits of EERIE and family. This is about our incredible giant special 42nd issue!
- THE MOUND Insects attacked humans in all the cities on Earth. There was no place for anyone to hide. Then a second menace appeared—one that was even more horrible!!
- RI, MASTER OF MEN All Earth had finally united! Now, a ruler was needed for the planet! Someone far superior than a mere human . . . someone not even HUMAN at all!
- 24 WHEN WAKES THE DREAMER
 San Francisco disappears. A plague that totally destroys, seems to exist, and there is no way to stop it. Only question: Should it be stopped?
- 32 A BLADE FOR THE TEACHER
 What happens when the greatest warrior is
 challenged by one of his students who also feels
 he's the greatest warrior? You'll see in this one!
- MAN-EATER What we have here is a girl, an artist, and a bit of mayhem that has never been seen before. Add to that a touch of terror and you've got a story that will chill you.
- THE CRITIC'S CRYPT King Kong, Flash Gordon on record, plus the paperbacks, Horror Stories Volume Four and Five, reviewed by EERIE columnist Chuck McNaughton!
- ECOLOGY OF DEATH The newest shocker short story about a devilish brat, and his equally mad mother as they go hunting and haunting with a demon on their back. Terrifies!
- MASK BEHIND THE FACE!
 "Why a comic book writer," asks the young
 girl he has brought to his apartment? Find
 out the chilling secret of the Moench-man!
- **EERIE FAN FARE** The biography of writer Don McGregor proves to be almost as horrifying as some of the tales he's penned for us! Plus a shorty about the "Afterlife!"
- THE WITCH Dax The Warrior battles as a mindless simeon against a sorceress. The stakes of this game are Dax's life and the Witch's youth. There can be only one victor!



ealism is one of the basic supplements of horror. The comparison of a horror story to your own life style is truly one of the ingredients I feel that ALL horror stories must have. The Gothic Horror has an unequalled mysticism, but the horror of this genre is usually overshadowed by a cloud of unreality. Stories about Vampires, Werewolves, and other creatures of the night somewhat suspend the reader from matching the story with his own life style. He fails to comprehend the real horror of the vampire for he has had no experience with it. Therefore I fully endorse tales such as "West Coast Turhabout" and "Heir Pollution." They left me with a feeling of horror and excitement, along with gratified enjoyment. They dealt with the resources of today; the drug and pollution scene, with a suspense that is so typical of EERIE

I fail to comprehend on what basis science fiction is put in EERIE. S.F. does not belong there—for a vampire riding aboard a space ship is as much farce as it is unreal. If some EERIE readers want tales of science fiction—let them read "Flash Gordon."

CHRIS THURMAN Great Falls, Montana

Which they can buy by looking up the ads in the back of EERIE—Cuz.

"Paul Neary's art is simply fantastic!"

After reading EERIE #41 (my first EERIE) I was impressed. Most of the stories were good. The art was good in some stories.

When I was at the bookshop where I bought my first Eerie, I was looking at a CREEPY. I found out that EERIE had higher quality stories and art.

The first thing I noticed on the cover was how SanJulian's style resembled that of the great Frank Frazetta's. The first story I read was "Chess." The story was excellent. The character, DAX, in my opinion, was terrific. He reminded me of Conan. Esteban Marota's art was excellent, not to mention his writing. Then I read the letters page and I was mad. All those idiots complaining about how EERIE's a horror mag and not a sword and sorcery mag.
"Warped" was sick. It had

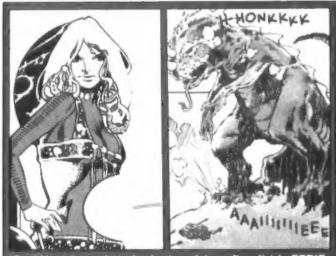
"Warped" was sick. It had bad art and a bad story. Not to mention "West Coast Turnabout." It wasn't as bad as "Warped"—but it was bad. "Heir Pollution" had pretty

"Heir Pollution" had pretty good art and a fairly good story. "The Caterpillars" was superb. F. Garcia's art was great, and F. Ott's writing was excellent. "Derelict" was good, but the story faltered at the end. "The Safest Way was O.K., but pretty silly.
EERIE #41 was great.

ROGER KRUEGER Oak Park, III

I really like your mag, but I tend to agree more with reader Byrch Griffin in that I don't happen to like Science Fiction, and I find it boring. Why don't you put more were wolves and vampires in your magazines?

TY OAVIS Selma, Ala



Paul Neary's much praised art work from Derelict in EERIE #41 (left) was only a preview of what is to come from this new Warren talent. Right, His epic, "Garganza," coming in the next issue of EERIE, is sure to please many Neary fans.



Reader reaction to Esteban Maroto's continual sword and sorcery DAX epics, are mixed. But there is hardly anyone who doesn't thrill to Maroto's beautiful draftsmanship.

#41's cover was great—too bad the inside wasn't as good. To start off with "Warped"—this story was a waste of time. "West Coast Turnabout" was original, and, as usual, Sutton's artwork was great. Well, it seems there was a blank space between pages 32 and 39, so Mr. Ott mixed THE TINGLER (1959) with THE SPIDERS ARE REVOLTING (EERIE #26) and he came up with "The Caterpillars." I don't know if he saw these other two stories, but his was similar to them both.

Now to change the subject —"Heir Pollution" was very good. It got me thinking. Bea's artwork was beautiful. "The Derelict" was a dud, although the artwork was well done. "The Safest Way" was clever, but it was neither Horror or Sci Fi—so what was it doing in EERIE?

Now we come to "Chess." I think it is the only good adventure of Dax yet. Let's face it—the only successful continuing series so far has been VAMPIRELLA.

MARK HOFFMAN Seminole, Fla.

That's odd, Mark—you said #41 was bad—yet out of the seven stories you mentioned, you liked four of them—seems like better than 50% to me—Cuz.

I thought issue #41 of EER-IE was great. I especially enjoyed "Dax The Warrior." I've read many EERIE magazines and this was the best. "Heir Pollution" was good, and deserves special compliments.

> GREG KAHANEL Yonkers, N.Y.

EERIE is beginning to show signs of improvement. Witness, for example, EERIE #41.

A good cover is always a promising sign, and this one was no exception. However, covers do not an issue make.

"Warped" was a meager effort. My hopes are beginning to fade: will this be another mediocre issue? "West Coast Turnabout" is next and my spirits rise. It's hard to come up with an original twist, but Wooley pulled it off quite well.

"Caterpillars" seemed to remind me of another story with insects taking over the world, in issue #26. The other stories were nothing special -the Dax tale disappointing.

After all this, why do I say the mag is improving? Partly because of the ever improving art. The ads are more interesting, and Eerie is no longer a Clown. This is worth the price of the mag alone.

DAVE ORRILL Hastings On Hudson, N.Y.

Your new artist, Paul Neary, is fantastic. Your comics have been "dominated" by Esteban Maroto and Auraleon, but Paul's art is just incredibly precise. This is why I prefer him over such artists as Luis Garcia and Jose Bea. Not that they aren't superb artists, but their scratchy style turns me off.

Paul's is much more bold like that of Hal Foster. Has he done any other work for your

magazine?

DELMONTE Baton Rouge, La.

Paul's art will be appearing in EERIE as often as we can get him.

"More blood and guts!"

EERIE #41 was, without a doubt, the best issue you ever put out this year, Cousin.

"Heir Pollution," as all Jose Bea's work-was superb. 'Warned' suffered a weak ending. "Chess" was a Marota classic. The ending of "West Coast Turnabout" was a horror first. Keep it up, Cuz.

KATHLEEN LaCLAIR Miami, Fla.

EERIE is soaring to great-er heights of glory than it has ever known before, while CREEPY AND VAMPI seem to be in a rut. EERIE #41 had a good cover (as usual), and one of the best Monster Galleries I've seen yet. "West Coast Turnabout" was great, was great, but Sutton's art wasn't as good as his work in the past. I really enjoyed "The Safest

Dax wasn't quite up to it

this issue, though.

However, I do have high praise for "Derelict." This is MY kind of sci-fi story. I'll admit that I've never heard of Paul Neary or John Thaxis before, but the art and story were both fantastic. Please. let's have more stuff like this.

As to the "nudes and goreto use 'em or not" debate. My opinion is simply use them when you need them. It's really distracting while reading a good horror story to see a misplaced nude girl running across the page.

RICKY HAWKS College Park, Ga.

I was really shocked when I discovered how good the latest EERIE was, Keep it up!

DAVID EICHINGER North Plainfield, N.J.

I have read EERIE #41 and I think "WEST COAST TURN-ABOUT" and "CHESS" were ABOUT" and "CHESS" were great. This is the first issue Thave bought. I am busy buying back orders now.

Only thing I would like to see is you should get more blood and guts into the scene. would be more interested.

Ok?

JAMIE HILL Waverly, N.Y.

Your Anti-Establishment nature of issue #41 with its sadistic Capitalistic exploiters causing world doom through pollution and such things as making the military destroy the Earth through a biological warfare goof is nauseating. Your magazine has degressed from a moderately interesting one to a piece of trash and I just thought I'd let you know that neither I or any of my friends will ever purchase a copy of this trashy magazine again.

> MICHAEL MULFORD Kellogg, lowa

We printed your letter Mike-with straight, no changes in any way-but we really can't see what you're complaining about. But rather than try to defend our-selves, we ask you readers to answer Mike.

What can I say about the cover of #41. It was the best cover since those days when Frazetta was a regular. Sanjulian always surprises His many covers for VAM-PIRELLA never left a great impression on me. Then-WHAMMO! EERIE #40-and finally this one. I sincerely believe this cover should win the Warren Award for best cover.

It's good to see Ken Barr back in your magazine. And please give us regular doses of Jose Bea. His artwork is truly unique...

GARY KIMBER Ontario, Canada

The cover of EERIE #41 was terrific. More by Sanjulian, "Warped" was good, but the art was terrible. Get rid of Jerry Grandenetti. "West Coast Turnabout" was good, "West and "Heir Pollution" was also very good. I just loved "Caterpillars." It was real eerie. I didn't care for "Derelict" and The Safest Way," although the art was good on both stories. The "Dax The Warrior" story—"Chess" was very, very good, I love Maroto's artwork.

> LARRY DEAN Hampton, Va.

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OUT OF EERIE IT MAY NOT THEIR FAULT! MAYBE YOU JUST WAITED TOO LONG TO BUY ONE! DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE!

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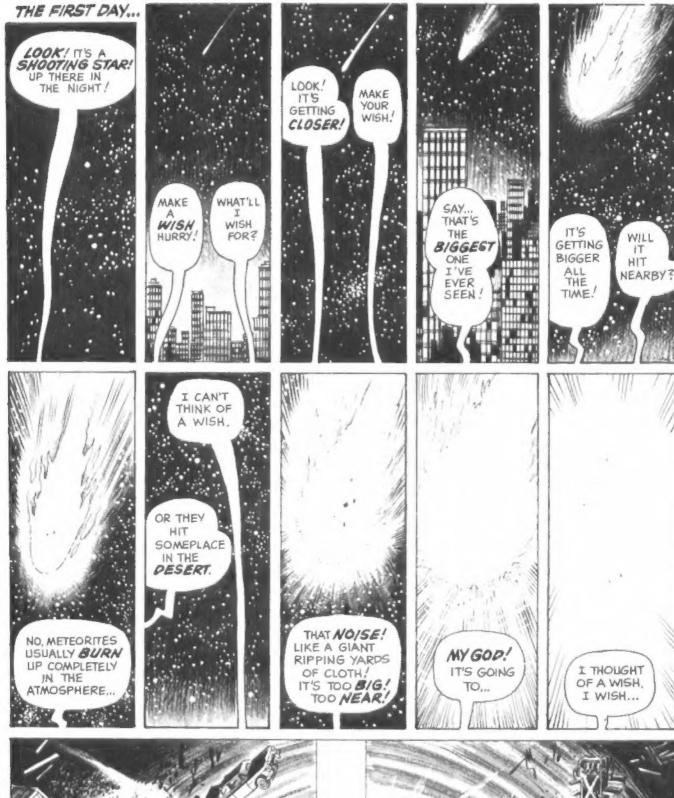
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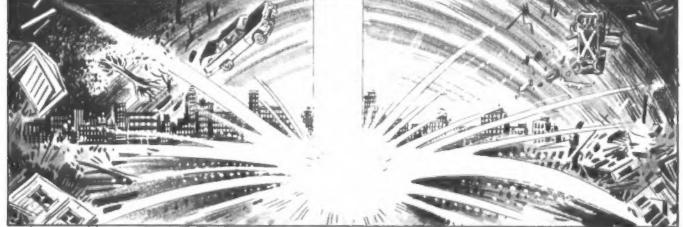




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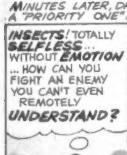




















HUNDREDS OF TINY
JAWS CHEWING
AND TEARING
THROUGH THE
FLIGHT SUIT,
RIPPING AWAY THE
GOGGLES...PINCHING, SLICING,
CUTTING,...EATING!!

























AS FOR FIGHTING STAMINA, A MAN CAN









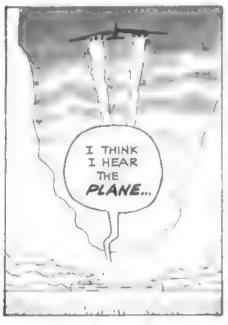


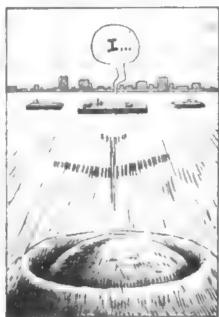


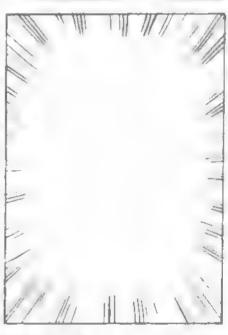












































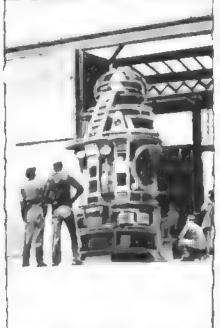




"EVERYTHING MAN HAD BEEN SO CAREFUL TO HIDE FOR CENTURIES -- ALL THE HATRED, DECEIT, THIEVERY-BOILED TO THE SURFACE: BROTHER FOUGHT BROTHER, WHITE MAN FOUGHT BLACK, DEATH WAS OUR ONLY GOD; AND CHAOS RULED SUPREME!"



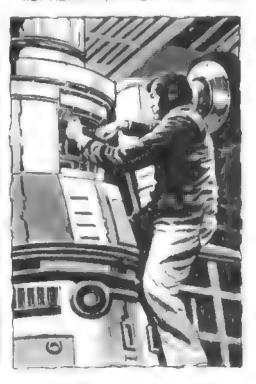
"AND I GAVE IT A MIND OF IT'S OWN. IT HAD LEARNED THE MEANINGS OF "JUST CE" AND "SALVATION". IT HAD LEARNED "LOVE" -- AND THEN REJECTED THEM ALL!"



"IT THEN LEARNED THE WORDS DICTATOR, MONARCH, IT LEARNED TO HATE, AND TO KILL... AND I WONDERED WHAT I HAD DONE." "THEN, SOMEHOW, A SMALL GROUP OF TECHNICIANS BANDED TOGETHER TO CREATE A MACHINE TO DO THE JOB WE COULDN'T. THEIR SUCCESS WAS SOON FORTHCOMING -- WHAT HAD BEEN AN IDEA BECAME REALITY. AND SO, WE (FOR I WAS AMONG THE GROUP) BUILT A COLOSSUS... THEN RELEASED IT UPON THE WORLD!"



"THE OTHERS WERE SATISFIED WHEN THE MACHINE HAD LEARNED "DEMOCRACY" AND "JUSTICE". I STAYED, INTENT UPON IMPROVING THE MACHINE, GIVING IT A MIND OF IT'S OWN. IT HAD TO BECOME A FREE-THINKING, METAL MAN!... IT COULD NOT REMAIN A PUPPET OF OUR WILL"



"WE HAD CREATED A DEVIL MACHINE CAPABLE OF CONTROLLING FOUR-FIFTHS OF OUR POPULATION -- WE HAD CREATED THE PEOPLE'S NEW SAVIOR. // HAD BECOME ALL POWERFULL, ALMIGHTY; THE ANSWER TO EVERYONE'S PRAYER."



"DID I SAY EVERYONE'S PRAYER? NOT TO THOSE OF US HE LEFT FREE OF MIND-- THE GROUP THAT HAD CREATED AND MUST REPAIR THIS MONSTER! WE LOATHED IT... THE MACHINE WITH THE TAG READING R-1 9873... WHICH WE SOON SHORTENED TO ... RI, MASTER OF MEN!"



OUR LOATHING GREW, OUR HATRED FESTERED -- WE HAD REACHED A POINT WHERE WE NAD TO LEAVE RI AND EVERYTHING IT STOOD FOR! SO, WE BEGAN TO STEAL..."



"THEN RI DECIDED IT MUST PUNISH US; THAT IT MUST BRAIN-WASH US, AND THAT WAS A PUNISHMENT WE COULD NEVER LINDERGO, FOR WE KNEW WHAT RI'S



"AND SO, WE RAN ... AND RAN ... AND RAN ... "

"THEN WE HID IN THE DARK-NESS, THE SOLITUDE OF THE COUNTRY, WE BEGAN TO BUILD A ROCKETSHIP, WE HAD REALIZED THAT TO LEAVE RI WOULD BE TO LEAVE THE EARTH ITSELF."



"DID RI, OUR
OWN CREATION, KNOW
WHAT WE
PLANNED?
COULD IT
POSS BLY
UNDERSTAND
OUR FEAR,
OR OUR
HATRED?
NOW
WHERE
WE HID?"









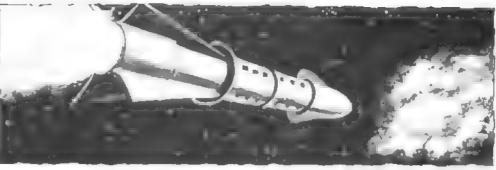
"THE SOUND! THE WEIGHT OF A HUNDRED ZOMBIES APPROACHING, THE SOUND OF OUR FUNERAL HYMM! I KNEW, WE ALL KNEW -- RI WAS NOT GOING TO LET US LEAVE... EVER!"



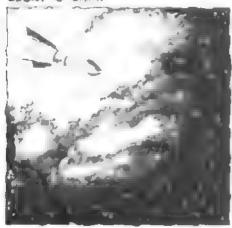
"THE ROCKET DANCED, JERKED, AND WE WERE OFF! BUT THE ZOMBIES HAD THE'R BLOOD-- FORTY OF US STAYED BEHIND TO DIE. RI HAD MADE SURE THAT WE'D REMEMBER, HIM."



"WE WERE TRAVELING AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT, CUTTING AWAY CENTURIES OF TIME IN MINUTES -- TRAVELING AT A SPEED THAT WOULD SHOOT US DIRECTLY PAST THE BARREN MOON! BUT WE SLOWED, BEGAN TO BRAKE ALMOSTIMMEDIATELY... AND HIT THE TIME WHORL!"



TIME WHORL! * NATURE'S PREAK BREAKAGE OF THE THE SWIRL'N WHICH ALL THE DISAPPEARS AND THERE WE BEGAN TO DRIFT.



A TIME WHORL, TO MOST APPEARANCES, LOOKS GREATLY SIMILAR TO THE MILKY WAY. IT IS AN UNEXPLICABLE "GAP" OF TIME; WHILE SUBJECTS IN A WHORL ACT NATURALLY, THEY DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY FROM BOTH THE SIGHT AND TIME OF THE DIMENSION THEY LEFT BEHIND -- THEY DO NOT AGE! EDS NOTE

"THERE WASN'T A SANE MAN ON BOARD, SAVE MYSELF -- AND EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHY I DECIDED TO PROTECT THE FOOD AND WATER SUPPLES FROM THE OTHERS ALL WAS LOST; AND, THEN, WE BROKE FREE OF THE WHORL!



"IT SEEMED AS IF WE HAD DRIFTED FOR YEARS, OUR FOOD AND WATER SUPPLY DWINDLED TO ALMOST NON-EXISTANT PROPORTIONS YET IN A WHORL, WE KNEW THAT CENTURIES OF TIME WERE PASSING AWAY FROM US AND THAT KNOWLEDGE CAUSED SOME TO FIGHT OTHERS TO GO CRAZY."



"WE NO LONGER HAD A CONTENT CREW -- NOR A COMPETENT ONE. DESPAIR RAN RAMPANT THROUGH THE SHIP: DEATH BECAME A DAILY OCCURENCE."



WE HAD LEFT THE WHORL SUDDENLY, INEXPLICABLY, WE BEGAN TO NEARTHE MOON QUICKLY, WE COULD SEE A FEW FAINT CRATERS THE GLORY OF THAT ANCIENT PLANET! WE HAD BUT MINUTES LEFT BEFORE DECELERATION!"



THE OTHERS LEFT TO STRAP DOWN, AND PREPARE FOR DECELERATION THEY WERE ALL HAPPY: MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE BEEN. BUT I WONDERED--NOW WERE WE GOING TO LIVE WITHOUT ANY FOOD OR WATER ?"





"THEN THE SHIP SUDDENLY DIPPED, SPUN -- SABOTAGE .""



"THAT MY MEMORY REMINDS ME IS HOW IT ALL STARTED -- THAT, I CAN'T FORGET, IS WHY WE ARE HERE."











"SO I HIT THE LOUD-MOUTH AGAIN, ANGRILY, HAPPILY. YET HIS WORDS CONTINUE TO RUN THROUGH MY HEAD; YOU'VE YOU'VE DOOMED US ALL DOOMED US!"



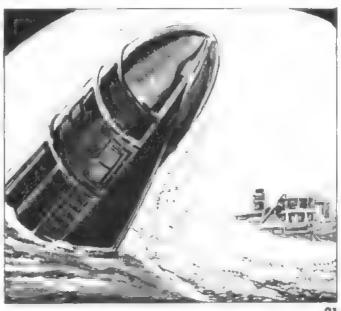


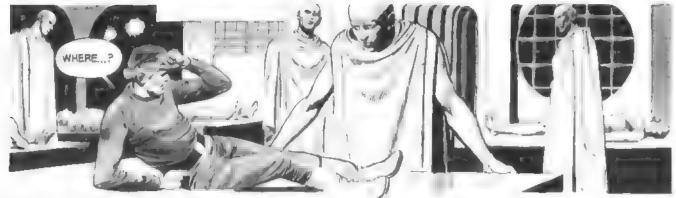


SAND CONTINUES TO POUR IN... WHY WON'T IT STOP? WHY WON'T IT STOP?"



"THE SHIP STOPPED MOVING -- THE QUIET SOUNDS OF A CITY SEEMED TO REACH MY EARS BEFORE EVERYTHING WENT BLACK...."







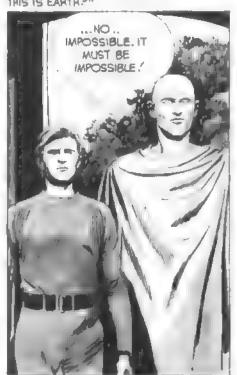




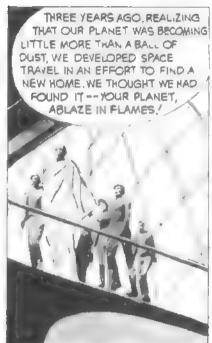
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"WE MUST GO BACK NOW," HE SAYS. BUT WHY DOESN'T HE SAY HOW HE LEARNED OUR LANGUAGE... WHY HIS PLANET RESEMBLES EARTH SO MUCH!" UNLESS--THIS IS EARTH?"

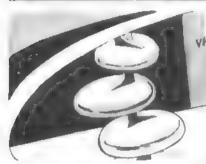






YOUR RACE HAD SECOME NON EXISTANT; IT HAD DIED OUT, OVER THE YEARS, HAVING FAILED TO REPRODUCE TSELF, IT HAD, WE FOUND, SIMPLY LOST ALL DESIRE TO DO ANYTHING BUT SERVE SOME ALM-GHTY DICTATOR... IT HAD BECOME MORE







YOUR PLANET WAS NO LONGER VALUABLE TO US, HAVING BEEN RAVAGED BY THE BLAZE ** AND YET, AS A SYMBOL OF OUR UNSUCCESSFUL YOYAGE, WE DETERMINED TO FIND A MEMENTO OF YOUR EARTH AND BEGAN BY RE-CONSTRUCTING A LANDSCAPE IN THE HEART OF OUR CITY.









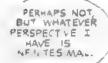














WE GROW TOO SURE OF OURSELVES, BILL WE SETTLE FOR THE LITTLE WE KNOW AND DON'T SEEK ANY FURTHER











AND THEN IT IS OVER, THE LIFE THAT WAS BILL DYSON IS GONE. AS IF IT HAD NO MEANING, AND BY THAT VERY IMPLICATION THURSTON REALIZES AS HE STANDS THERE HIS OWN, LIFE, MONA'S LIFE, ANYBODYS EXISTENCE CLAIMS THE SAME FOR-FEITURE



















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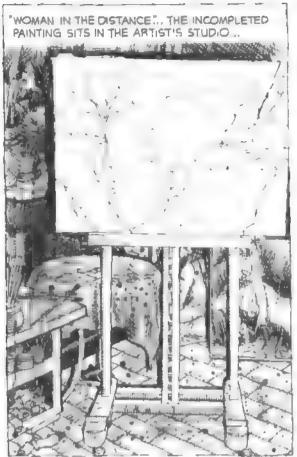
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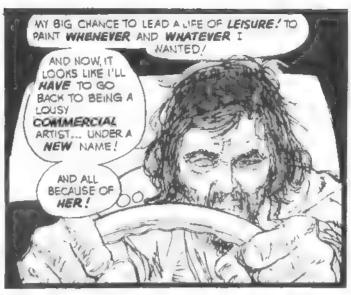


















NEARLY HYP-NOTIZED BY THE SCENE HE STARES AT, HE DOES-N'T EVEN NOTICE AS HIS OWN FOOT PRESSES DOWN ON THE BRAME...



ALL THAT'S
MISSING IS THE
WOMAN -- WAY OFF
IN THE DISTANCE! IF
SHE WERE THERE, IT-

HO! WAIT!





TRANCE-LIKE, HE STEPS FROM THE CAR.

IT'S PERFECT.

STILL AS THOUGH IN A TRANCE, HE WALKS (OR IS HE PULLED?) TOWARD THE WOMAN ...



AS I PLANNED IT

SHE'S SO
FAR IN THE
DISTANCE, I CAN
HARDLY MAKE HER
OUT! SHE HAS FEW
DEFINITE CHARACTERISTICS! SHE
COULD BE ALMOST
ANY WOMAN!

ANY WOMAN! YES. THAT'S THE WAY HE HAD WANTED IT IN HIS PAINT-ING. HE HAD NEVER HAD ANY TROUBLE DEALING WITH WOMEN IN GENERAL IT WAS ONLY WHEN HE GOT TOO CLOSE, ONCE SHE BECAME A SPECIFIC WOMAN. THAT THE PROBLEMS SEEMED TO DEVELOP ...







...FOR THAT NEXT INSTANT, AS HE TRIPS AND TUMBLES TOWARD HER, THE PAINTING CHANGES, BECOMES SURREALISTIC...SHE GROWS CONTINUALLY LARGER, AS HE GROWS SMALLER... THE RULES OF REALISTIC PERSPECTIVE HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN SUSPENDED...



FINALLY, HE IS FLOATING IN TOWARD A HUGE, SM LING FACE THE SAME SMILE, THE SAME EVIL EXPRESSION SHE WORE JUST BEFORE HE KILLED HER ... OR DID HE KILL HER? SHE OPENS HER MOUTH, REVEALING LONG, SHARP TEETH, FANGS! NO, NO, THIS ISN'T HIS MODEL, THE LITTLE BLACKMAILER! HE DID KILL HER! THIS IS SOME GROTESQUE PARODY! HE OPENS HIS MOUTH BUT THE SCREAM WON'T COME...





AND ONCE HE REACHES THIS WOMAN, ONCE HE IS CLOSE ENOUGH, SHE BEGINS TO CLOSE HER FANTASTIC MAW, HER LONG, WHITE FANGS HEADING DOWN TOWARD HIS NECK...



AAAR CREHI-//

NOW, HIS CAR IS A SMOULDERING, CRUMPLED WRECK, TWISTED ABOUT A TREE, AND INSIDE LIES HIS BODY, BUT... DIDN'T HE LEAVE THE CAR? WHAT ABOUT THE LANDSCAPE? WHAT ABOUT THE WOMAN?



A DREAM? YES, PERHAPS. PERHAPS HE NEVER DID SEE THAT LANDSCAPE, NEVER DID LEAVE HIS CAR! PERHAPS HE SIMPLY FELL ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL AND DREAMED IT ALL, AND YET, THAT NEXT MORNING...



THE CRITICS CRYPT

Original Motion Picture Classic

KING KONG Balden Records, \$1.98

The credit for the adaptation from the original screen play of this highly professional and "straight" radio style treatment of the mainly visual experience, KING KONG, was done by Cherney Berg. And using a deal of monsteriffic imagination, one's own memory pretty much fleshes out the bare, melodramatic words and dinosaur sound effects

In this special version Captain Englehorn (Daniel Ocko) narrates. The plot of the film pretty much stays the same

Driscoil, the hero is play ed by Nat Polen, a burly heroic voice. The grand showman who leads the expedition to Skull Island to find King Kong, Carl Denham, is read with 1930 s-ish showbix gusto by Ralph Bell and the "Fay Wray" heroine part of Anne Darrow is shrieked quite nicely by Elaine Rost Sound effects (including, one supposes Kong's growl) were by Ralph Curtis

Where the Flash Gordon record was obviously played for laughs, KING KONG is played straight. If one perceives any humor to it, it comes from the story line of the film itself for the actors go about recreating with a twinge of nostalgia the basic feeling of the movie Sadly, there is no background music it would have been nice to incorporate some of the film's original Max Steiner soundtrack

Yet the record works better than most spoken word adaptations and even better than some actual dialogue tracks that have made it to discs over the years it's something to play some Halloween eve, with a group of friends and a large bowl of popcorn before you. And your own Fay Wray beside you, to shriek when you've turned the lights out



The Official Adventures of

FLASH GORDON

Sterring Buster Crubbe Log the Lion Records, \$1.98

In the 1930's, comic art genius Alex Raymond electrifled the world with his master saga, Flash Gordon Millions of Sunday comics readers were swept to the fantastic nations and peoples to be found on the planet Mongo-hawkmen, molemen, powermen, snow queens, witch queens, and the biggest baddle of 'em all, Ming, the Merciless, Emperor of all Mongo who's an enemy of freedom, justice, and 3 earthlings, Flash Gordon, Dale Arden, and Dr. Hans Zarkoff The serial boom of the late 30's and early 40's brought forth three different Flash Gordon serials, all starring Buster Crabbe, based on the Alex Raymond comic strip

Raymond went on to other things, and the comic strip Flash Gordon has changed quite a bit since Then in 1966 Buster Crabbe with a cast of 5 relatively unknown radio voices, recorded this album

There are two complete adventures, "The Decoys of Ming the Merciless." and "Flash Gordon and the Mole Machine." done in an old time radio style. It is worth noting that despite the fact that a full quarter century had elapsed between the serials and the album. Buster Crabbe and the others have come very close to approaching the professionality and the quality of the movie serials.

All in all, it's a very campy party fun record, and the beautiful jacket illustration by Warren illustrator Al Williamson is suitable for framing Selections from the Pen Book of

HORROR STORIES #4

Edited by Herbert Van Thei Berkoley Books, 75¢ 180 Pages

"The Pan Book of Horror Stories" must be a prized collectors' item. It hasn't been seen on any bookshelves by this reviewer, but if he spies it, he'll buy it (price being reasonable). The selections in this 4th collection are pretty good classic horror, and if they are any indication, the first three picks of the litter must have been superb.

Some of the stories are supernatural some bordering on science fiction, and "plain" stories about some truly horrible subjects There seems to be a consistent theme of madness in these selections, which seems to uphold the theory that horror stories demon-strate the basic principles of psychology, as shown in minds breaking down. Even horror yarns which make use of the supernatural in this volume seem to only make certain mad wishes real The malignant ear-marks of mental illness are all there

There are eleven stories in this collection. We can't go into them all, but fans of Ray Bradbury should note a seldom-reprinted piece. The Emissary," here Robert Aickman's chill "Ringing the Changes," recounts a most curious small British town festival, where all the dead from land and sea climb from their graves to dance until dawn. If Sigmund Freud can't make anything of that, Arthur Murray should!

Selections From the Pan Book of

HORROR STORIES #5

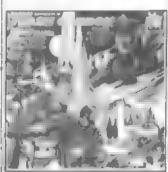
Edited by Herbert Van Thai Berkeley Books, 75¢ 189 Pages

Perhaps they were saving the best of "The Pan Book of Horror Stories" for last but every story in this one is good, and Gerald Kersh's "Men Without Bones" is GREAT! The mark of a good anthologist is his inclusion of a Gerald Kersh story Kersh is one of the finest short story adventure writers of all time, not to men tion best mystery authors

"The Sins of Our Fathers," by Chr stianna Brand, was recently aired as a segment on Rod Serling's NIGHT GALLERY It can be easily held up as equal to if not better than Shirley Jackson's overpraised "The Lot tery" (which was charitably not included in this volume) "Sins" concerns an ancient Welsh custom of "sin eating" — gobbling food left on a corpse or grave, in order that the sin eater absorbs via food the "sins" of the deceased

Moving onto the more bizarre, there's "Lukundoo" a jungle curse tale where a victim breaks out in skin imps, and from each of those lumps hatches tiny thinking micro-pygmies—all while he is wide awake!

I Love You Always," by Adobe James (the British Robert Bloch), is about a voluptuous, lovely, and excruciatingly nymphomaniacal ghost That one, of all the 12 stories, most made this reviewer want to have nightmares, or at least believe in the supernatural Alas! There's no such thing as ghosts







EERIE SHORT-SHORT SHOCKER LOGGICAL CONTROL OF THE SHOCKER

wait only for life, Yet 1 am vibrantly alive 1 am Death But not dead 1 wait for life so that I may take it. I give the gift of death in return. Most do not care for the exchange Yet it is necessary For me. I am a paradox. Yet lexist Without problem, but with help

I was not always a paradox That which I now am is dictated by my new environment. In the equatorial rain forests

of South America a belch is not considered a breach of etiquette. It is a sound of profound gratitude, a compliment to the cook

Murder is not a heinous crime in the terminal cancer ward, it is mercy

A sharp blade is not a weapon of pain in the hospital. It is the instrument which alleviates pain

I am a paradox here. I was not a paradox there. Nor will I be. When I return. There After I take life.

And give death. Here

Here is where I am. I was not always here. I will not always remain here. I am not expected to be here. I will be a surprise. A surprise is not a paradox. As a paradox, I am not expected to be anywhere But I am

Paradox is a word. Here and there

Here is a closet There is my home

The ecology of life dictates death. For balance To balance my life there must be death. The death will release a life For me And mine

I need life. To exist

I exist in the closet. With a life, and with a simultaneous death, I will exist outside the closet.

A paradox has certain advantages it can be two things at once and at one. Contradiction is alien to paradox yet very much a part of it. Two things at once.

There I was beautiful. My dewlap was brilliant purple, shot with rills of striated yellow. It quivered and glowed Proudly My proboscis pulsed with scarlet vividness, the plue arteries splendidly defined and large, large to the bursting point of rich fullness. My feet were splayed and tal-



oned to perfection. Able to curl about anything and hold fast, especially about my ears My ears were long dangly flaps covered with a coat of glistening lustrous slime Green. My mouth was a gash of red, an oyster filled with the pearls of my teeth Long, sharp, hooked, barbed. My eyes stretched in a brilliantly sustained slit from ear to ear with scarcely a break between them Lumi nous blue. My trunk was mottled with shimmering, corruscating patches of oscillating color and light, interchange-able. The warts were particularly salient. And I drip-dripped more secretion than anyone else. A puddle of delicious ooze followed me everywhere Yes, there I was truly beauti-

Here I am hideous. And yet I look precisely the same A paradox

I do not like this closet I ache to be free. There is only one way to leave here I do not savor the prospect of indulging in it. Yet I think this time I shall take life most avidly With great alacrity. And huge enjoyment

In this closet there is a tennis racket. And the salvation for a race of paradox. And me I wait. So do the other two things.

"Jimmy, don't bother me I'm tired and your father will be home soon. Why don't you be a good boy and help me straighten things up? Instead of whining at me like that?"

"Aw, mom I can't explain it but if I don't do it something will happen to me, something bad, and I don't want that to happen, and I know what an important man dad is and all that but I've just got to do it and anyway I did the dishes this morning so why can't I

play now?"
"Why now? You haven't touched it since your father and I bought it for you last Christmas Said you didn't like it. You were quite a brat about that, young man it upset your father, you know. He hoped you'd like it."

"Then playing with it now will please him more than helping you straighten up, Her husband would be home

What I am now is even more hideous. Or would be. There. Here it is considered extremely beautiful, and desirable, in a mature woman sort of way 1 don't you see? Ain't I right?"

Aren't I right! Well, I must admit you have a way with words, twisting things around to suit what you want. Yes you're right. The way you look at it, it would please your father more. But he's terribly busy now. He has so much on his mind that I doubt if he'd even notice you were playing with it

"Then he wouldn't even notice if I straightened up either. right? So it doesn't matter Where is it, mom?"

Sometimes you literally amaze me with your scheming, Jimmy Oh, I don't know just don't know. You've changed so much since we moved from Chicago Don't you like it here?

'Aw, I like Washington fine, mom It has a lot of nice tennis courts. Where sithe racket. mom?"

"In the closet, I suppose With the rest of your junk '

Thanks, mom I won't for get you for this I'll pay you

back Swirling confusion, shrieking muffled in the moth balls. coats and pants tangling horror indelibly etched in wide eyes, flailing tennis racket, desperate whimpers, coughs

am a paradox and why does James have to be such a big deal with NASA and no time for me? I do not like that At

"I tell you, Jean, they're midget minds, those ecology lobbyists. Sure the space probe'll take a lot of money. we've never gone this far before. But they're thinking short-term; the benefits to human life found on that planet could shake up and improve our lifestyle from now till doomsday What's wrong, honey? You're not listening'
"I know what you're saying

know everything about it. Tomorrow it's up for passage You're the deciding vote, you intend on voting in favor of the planet probe

"How did you know that?" "Jimmy told me

"Jimmy-! But how could be

'Kiss me, James "

"Only if you promise to explain how a ten-year-old boy is privileged to classified information:

I promise. Kiss me " Leaning over to the couch to kiss his wife, Lt James Tuc-ker punctured his heart on a stiffly-held butcher knife

His wife then proceeded to kiss him, sucking his corpse inside-out and devouring the whole mess.

In the morning, Lt. James Tucker left for the pentagon building to veto the Unchart-

ed Planets Probe He did not wonder why his wife and son were not around to see him off He was a paradox, and all he wanted was to be left alone gasps, sobs, soft flesh, malleable, molding to grasping, rending, tearing prehensile, gaping maw, fetid stench, extruding fangs, long, sharp, hooked, barbed, puncturing, sucking, blood spewing, black in the gloom, true red in the imagination, queasy, inversed stomach, being sucked, insideout, flesh and organs ripped loose, pulled up, sucked up and out, nausea, blood, blood everywhere, no more shrieks, no more sobbing ululations no more flesh, no more blood, no more organs, no more corpse Just death

And life

When Jimmy left the closet he did not hold a tennis racket. There was nothing different about him other than a strange gleam in his eyes, a faraway look of wistfulness estrangement and relentless purpose all rolled into two small balls of eye And I

Jimmy went into the kitchen and took something from one of the drawers

I do not like what I am now There I would be hideous Here I am beautiful. In a little boy sort of way I am a paradox and very angry at mom for making me do the dishes this morning

Why are you acting so fun-

ny, Jimmy?"
"No reason, mom Just that 'm a paradox

"A what? Where'd you learn that word?"

In the closet, mom I learned a lot of things in the closet About dad and what he wants to do About the ecology of life and death. All in the

closet " "What's gotten into you, young man? Don't bother me now with that gobbledygook you pick up from the televi-sion if you're not going to play tennis get to work and help me straighten up. Your father will be home any minute now."

"I know, mom. "What is wrong with you? Why are you staring like that at nothing? What are you hid-ing behind your back? The ten-ris racket?"

"No mom A butcher knife" Jimmy stepped up to his mother, swiftly, and stabbed her seven times in the solar plexus. She bled profusely and ripped the living room curtain from its hooks as she crumpled to the crimson-pooled carpet

Jimmy knelt beside her and licked the troth of blood from her lips before he sucked her inside-out

Jimmy's mother carefully rehung the living room curtain. Some of the hooks were irreparably bent or broken She did the best she could. and hid the clean butcher knife under the sofa cushion



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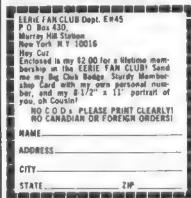
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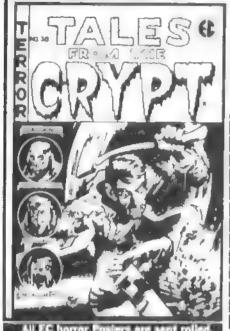
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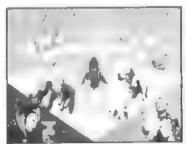
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DOUG MOENCH'S CONFESSION: STORY OF A GHOST WRITER!!!

f you've read any of the three Warren Horror Maga-zines(CREEPY, EERIE, VAM-PIRELLA) in the past two years, you have read at least one story by Demonical Douglas Moench. His tales of the creeping dead, of werewolves prowling the night, of rat-infesting horrors, has elicited much praise from you readers, and have had you begging for more. Recently, Doug, a native of fair Chicago, wrote an article for the Chicago Sun-Times' Sunday supplement on writing horror stories for War-ren Magazines. We thought you readers would enjoy reading the article and the short story Doug wrote to go along with it...especially since the story was illustrated by Warren artist Russ Heath.

elcome, shriek-creeps to my next terror triumph of crowning coincidence and infinite irony! Without further ado, let's take a little midnight journey down Green River into bayou country where there's a... BAD MOON ON THE RISE!"

Cousin Eerje said that in his characteristically alliterative, pun-riddled introduction to the lead werewolf story in Eerie Magazine #36, November, 1971. He regularly serves as the magazine's resident host. I wrote it, in January of the same year. I function as one of the dozen or so regular writers who puts words into ole Cuz's mouth before launching into one of our (hopefully) terrifying terror tales in comic strip form. I've written some 50 additional and stylistically similar introductions for the corpulently macabre, wartnosed host-as well as his Hitchcockian closing comments, and the stories between

It all began three years ago, but the catalystic roots were implanted long before that and at a time difficult to isolate or pinpoint with any precision. But it was probably in the '50's, when as a preteenager I was catapulted into sublimely, shivering ecstasies of masochistic (or as some psychiatrists claim, cathartic) fear following the newsstand appearance of each new EC horror comic The EC's were beautiful in their relentless presentation of artti-beauty, employing the most eminently talented artists of the day, and boasting some of the most literately written stories in a medium infamous for pulp. And they exercised a profound effect on me. I savored each of them, dutifully cringing at the delicious chills engendered by the last panel's twist-ending denouement

Ten years after the EC's died, Creepy No. 1 hit the stands It was a spectacular splash of displaced nostalgia, replete with many of the same fine EC artists (but improved with the intervening decade). the same style of horror, and the similar device of employing a host figure to introduce and close each story. Uncle Creepy, cadaverously gaunt long hair fringing a near-bald pate, leering grin intimidating you with unguessed and sinister knowledge. Apart from the inherent, aesthetic improvement, another, more strategic reason dictated this divergence in physical format Magazines, even if nothing

more than glorified comic books, are not subject to approval by the Comics Coxe Resultly, horror was unleashed rampant and unstrictured in the pages of Creepy

So it happened Comics—
specifically horror comics—
were an obsession with me.
As I grew older, the urge to
form a career asserted itself
and forced me to make an attempt at asserting myself
What other choice was there!
I wrote comics My first five
successive scripts were purchased by Warren Publishing
Co., and with 58 now under
my belt I've yet to quit. I don't
think I ever will

I was meticulous in the presentation of my scripts, even including stick figure

breakdowns and layouts for each page, and confident that if the directions were strictly adhered to, one genuine synergism would emerge as the end result. Artists have brilliantly handled some of my later scripts, but I was disappointed with my first, Snow Job. I felt betrayed by the artist's treatment. The story was bland despite the fact that in my script each panel was designated by number, and followed by explicit instructions

But I still work for Warren, and have recently sold a number of scripts to National Periodical Publications, the publishers of Superman, Batman, and over 50 other titles

DOUG MOENCH





WRITERS DON McGREGOR



Writer Don McGregor, author of "When Wakes the Dreamer," on page 24.

ctually, all of this started for me some twenty years A for me some cases of was young and happy and going through all kinds or hell Come to think of it, it's still in much the same shape today, but back during that time period I was having my initiation with comic first books. Big times were happening, I'd gotten my first weekly allowance, one or those thin silver things they still call a dime, and I'd run up to the local news-dealer and there, hanging from the racks, was the current issue of Hopalong Cassidy. There went that week's allowance.

And my Mom kept a wary eye upon me, especially after I tried imitating a trick I'd seen the serial hero Copperhead perform: that of lying down in the middle of a high-way and letting a truck pass right over you. It doesn't work so don't bother trying it, and I don't care how many times you see the Copperhead do that

trick.

All of this might seem fairly amusing (it wasn't: Financial loss hurt, the truck hurt and the weird looks those teachers from all didn't help improve the situation) but most of the Wolf Seeker". Damn, doesn't that sound impressive. What it actually means is I spent a lot of time by myself doing my brooding Lamont Cranston bit except when boring anvone who came into contact with me with the odd assortment of characters I'd created during those high school years. Most of them took it pleasantly enough, though ! understand there is a dossier on my perverse doings locked up in some sterile computersystem.

I submitted my first script to Archie Goodwin. There is no doubt that in any short autobiography. I'd have to thank Archie for his encour-

agement.

The only way to conclude this little piece, I guess, is by commenting on some of the work that is appearing on these pages. The illustrated medium can combine cinematic effect with literate prose. The splicing of these two effective art forms, hopefully creates one that has its own worth and identity People like Leonard Starr and Charles Shultz among others have been proving consistently it isn't an easy medium to work within, But It has its rewarding moments





Above, a teenage girl shrieks in fear from The Vampiress Stalks," a McGregor story illustrated by Mas in Vampirella #21. Below, Madame Swamba carves mysterious figurines in McGregor's upcoming epic, "Malocchi.

AFTERLIFE

did not know whether I was in Heaven or Hell. So bewildered was I upon entering a new world of madness that I did not realize I had forgotten my name and my past. I was surrounded by a Devil's Apparatus, for what purpose I could not ascertain nor had I any wish to. But such an unnatural thing clearly could not be for the good of my health Before I could make an attempt to leave, however, an old man in white barred my way, grinning an insidious grin "Welcome." he said.

My God—I knew now this

My God—I knew now this was Hell and the old man was one of Satan's agents. I could feel the evil of the place to the very marrow of my bones. I flung myself at the old man's throat, my fingers squeezing in a death grip. Soon it was over and I surveyed my environment it was a sort of laboratory, but like no laboratory. I had ever seen before. There were strange machines flashing numbers and lights humming with an unholy power. OH LORD, SAVE ME.

I calmed myself, no easy taskstricken as I was with amnesia, and thrust into a new dimensionas a new-born babe into the world. Fighting down panic, my heart beating in my throat, I rummaged through the old man's closets until I found a set of garments. Undressing, a shock ran through the core of my being when something solid slipped from a pocket in my clothing and fell to the floor with a thud. A knife with a long blade stared

up at me and I felt a strong familiarity about it, but having no time to ponder, I snatched it up and hid it on my person.

Only when breathing became painful did I stop moving My fear was about to choke me knowing not which way to turn. So I stayed in one place, daring not to move for what seemed to be an eternity. Damned, I was in HELL.

Then a sight caught my eye. Through a window a blonde shapely woman was combing her flaxen hair while one hand fluttered to a knobbed box. I froze at that instant for a disembodied voice floated in the air out of the ethereal, and by its inhuman quality and strange choice of words, I knew it belonged to a demon:

"Dr. John Hawkins, renowned physicist, was found strangled to death in his laboratory today. It was believed he was conducting an experiment on time and displacement when

I can not explain the reason for what happened next: but at that moment the memories chose to come back to me in a flood And I was reassured because I knew who I was and what I had done

I produced the long knife and, for a brief second, I watched the blade gleam in the street light. No longer afraid of anything or anybody, I strode to the woman's window, smiling inwardly at the knowledge I had uncovered

I was Jack-Jack the Rip-

FRANK CHRISTENSEN

DO NOT STEP OUTSIDE!

he alarm clock startled him from a sound comfortable sleep. The clock didn't have the usual soft buzz it normally had or other mornings. This morning it sounded more like a loud electric shock of five thousand volts He stared at the clock and was surprised it had rang one hour earlier than he was supposed to get up He staggered drowsily out of bed and had his breakfast. Everything outside was still and quiet He could only hear a small cricket chirping out in front of his house. He hardly paid any attention to it as he opened his radio to listen to some morning music. He shaved early and cut himself near the neck. He hardly felt the sting until he saw the small red droplets of blood from his reflection in the mirror. He didn't bother to stop the bleeding. Going into the living room to read his newspaper, he found that it hadn't arrived. He found it odd, that

usually the paper was always at the door whenever he woke He went for a drink of water and check the time, when he noticed that the chirping outside had become louder, and more crickets had joined the first one. A few minutes before it was time for him to leave, the chirping noise outside had grown to practically ear-shattering volume. He couldn't hear what the man on the radio was saying. His curiosity at a peak, he opened the door to see what was happening. The shrill chirps of the insects jumping at his throat even muffled his terrifying screams for help. Soon everything was quiet and still again. All except the reporter on the radio who announced, "...We repeat, everyone remain at nome Keep all your doors and windows shut tight. This whole county is being invaded by blood-thirsty swarms of locusts. Do not step outside. Repeat, do not step outside.

RICHARD NOEL

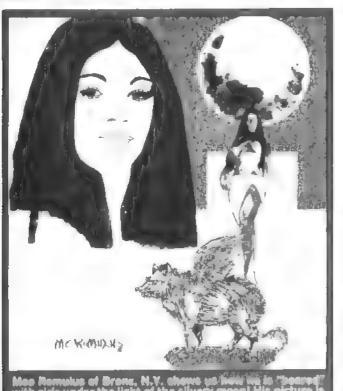
what. me worry?

y God, Marian, I just can't take it anymore!!", Louis screamed at the top of nis lungs, His wife, Marian. stood by, silently, the tears forming light-reflecting spheres on her pale cheeks She knew, silently, that what he was voicing was nothing but the truth. Her husband was slowly but surely being driven to death from the pressures and mental tensions of the murdering business world "I know, darling, I know. And that's why I have to show you this." For a moment Louis allowed his tear-stained orbs to flash to the medical journal his wife held so vehemently "What?", he questioned "What's that??..." Aloud, he Aloud, he read the glaring black print 'Freedom from life's tensions' a worry free existence.' What magazine is that?" Marian struggled for a hopeful smile for the first time in weeks "Darling, it's the local medical journal. It must be a new kind of treatment some doctor just of treatment some soul mean, perfected.ithought . . . i mean, had hopes . . . " "God, yes." had hopes..." "God, yes," he whispered, in a choked voice. "You're right! Anything s worth a try at this stage! Here, let me have the address 'li go first thing in the mornmg?"
Marian sat in the immacu-

late waiting room staring at an eight-month old copy of waiting, perfectly calm. for all outside appearances, and yet, inside, a turmoil of a thousand emotions. Time passed and still she waited

ure of Dr Cilka pushed through the port-holed double doors, noiselessly. She jumped up, almost out of sheer reflex "Doctor!", she cried, "How is he? Did the treatment work? Please, tell me! No, better yet! Let me see him! Please!" Raising a hand, the doctor showedhis experience in dealing with this kind of greeting "Yes, my dear, yes. The operation went fine and he is well and resting in one of the in-ner rooms." "Operation? What is this about an operation, doctor?Ithought it was a treatment of some kind ... halted her questions abruptly as she realized the doctor no longer stood there. Pushing through the doors, she saw his white-clad figure stop a few doors down the corridor and search his pockets for what appeared to be a key. As he opened the door, she rushed up to him, placing her hand on his arm, as if to stop further evasive action. "Doctor, You didn't answer my question. What kind of an operation did my husband submit to??" The doctor turned back to face her, as she noticed for the first time what lay in the elevated bed "Dear God ..." she managed to choke out 'Um? What? Oh, yes, the operation. Nothing to worry about, my dear," he said with a grin, tossing a thumb to-wards Louis. "We do them every day Just a simple little lobotomy."

STEVE CLEMENT





tooth be or not tooth

umborg was having prob-lems. They were not as bad as some of the other neighboring villages. Vararia was having troubles with a certain Mr Niemann Ten miles west of Vararia, a chap named Larry Talbot was causing quite a ruckus. And in the village of Frankenstein, a rogue named Ygor and some giant with a fur coat were stirring things

Humborg's problems were small in comparison

Humborg had a vampire, so they sent for Dr. Otto Von Helsinki, noted D O.V. (Des-troyer Of Vampires)

The whole village seemed to be out as the coach with Dr. Van Helsinki arrived There was much excitement as Mayor Hussmann explained to the good Doctor the town's problem

"Do you accept the challenge of destroying this foul creature?" inquired the may-

A hush fell over the crowd as they listened for Von Helsinki's answer

"Ja, I accept! Chust show me the vay to the monster's tomb."

The following day Hans Guberman, a young boy who knew where the Vampire bred, and Dr Von Helsinki went to the Vampire's tomb.

They returned the following

morning, tired-ragged
"Did you destroy the de-mon?" asked Karl, the shoemaker

"Ja! The Vampire will trouble you no more

A cheer rose up from the crowd that could be heard for miles. Mayor Hussman shoved his way through the crowd Eagerly he turned to Von Helsinki and asked

"How did you dispose of the monster? With a stake through the heart?"

"No." replied Von Helsinki. "Ahhh, then you placed him in the sunlight?"

Von Helsinki shook his head Mayor Hussmann grew puzzied

"Did you kill him by burning his coffin? With a Crucifix? Did you cut off his head?"

Von Helsinki shook his head to all of these.

"Well then, HOW DID YOU GET RID OF THE VAMPIRE?"

Von Helsinki smiled and id. "I am a Doctor, ja? JA! But I am NOT a Doctor of Medicine No, not I am a Doctor of DENTISTRY!"

Placing his hand in his pocket, he pulled out a handkerchief. Unfolding it he showed the Mayor its contents

Two pearly white eye teeth

MICHAEL CARLISLE

NOW HEAR THIS!

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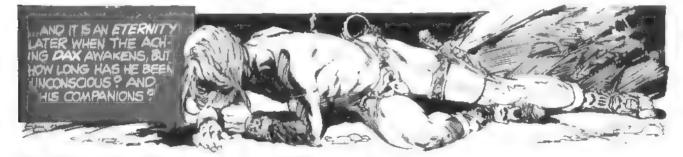
















HIS MEN GONE...HIS ANIMALS DEAD...
...DAX SEARCHES FOR A CLUE TO THE CAUSE OF THE UNSPEAKABLE HORROR HE HAS LIVED THROUGH. FOR LONG DAYS HE RIDES UNTIL ...











SHALL, WITCH -- THIS DAGGER SHALL DRINK YOUR STINKING BLOOD THIS NIGHT.





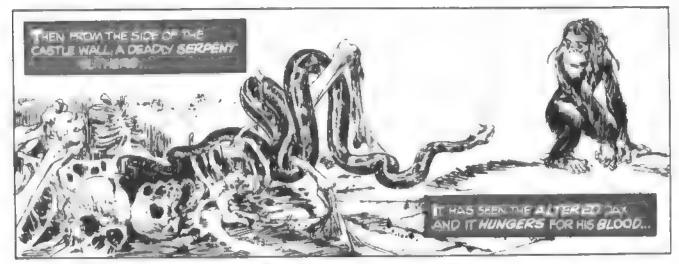






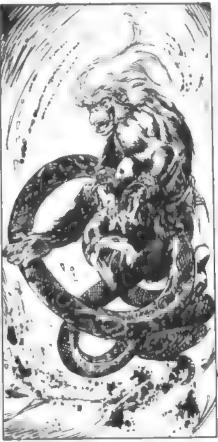


E CANONLY WAIT ... AND HOPE.



DAX'S MOVES ARE REFLEXIVE, NOT SEEMING TO BE SLOWED BY HIS ANIMAL EXTERIOR, HIS ONLY THOUGHTS ARE TO AVOID THE SERPENT'S POISONOUS FANGS...











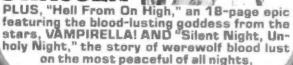




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